**Major New Funding will support a wide range of projects to improve energy efficiency and cut fossil fuel emissions**

*Washington, D.C.* – Congressman Henry Cuellar (Texas 28th District) and Congressman Ciro Rodriguez (Texas 23rd District) today announced that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the job-creation bill that passed Congress earlier this year, has provided $12.9 million to San Antonio and $2.5 million to Bexar County for energy efficiency and conservation projects.

"This is tremendous news for Bexar County," Congressman Cuellar said. "In these challenging economic times, these funds will create jobs right away and provide the foundation for efficient energy use and economic growth for years to come."

"Making ourselves more energy efficient is one of the most effective things we can do to conserve energy immediately," Congressman Rodriguez said. "This funding will be used for a wide variety of projects that will create jobs in our communities and help residents and businesses to save money."

The funds are provided through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program. Grant dollars are distributed to city, county, state, and tribal governments under a funding formula that takes into account population size and energy use.

Funds may be used to reduce energy use and fossil fuel emissions, for improvements in energy efficiency, and to improve energy efficiency in the transportation, building and other appropriate sectors.

Eligible projects include the development of an energy efficiency and conservation strategy, audits of residential and commercial energy use, financial incentive programs for energy efficiency improvements, grants to nonprofits and government agencies for energy efficiency retrofits, energy-efficient traffic signals and street lighting, and other appropriate activities approved by the Department of Energy.

Further details of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program is available online at  http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/ .

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